

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 7-15 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 4-6 of the present application.

**Summary of the Response**

By the foregoing amendment claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2 and 3 have been amended. Thus, claims 2-15 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed on October 26, 2004, claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,097,622 to Shimizu, et al. Claim 1 has been canceled and claim 3 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 2. The rejection is therefore moot.

**Claims 2-15 Recite Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action mailed October 26, 2004, indicates that claims 2 and 4-6 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 3-6 depend from claim 2 and are therefore likewise in condition for allowance. Claims 7-15 are

allowed. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently pending, claims 2-15, are in condition for allowance.

**Conclusion**

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with

this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter  
number 108066-00098.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juliana Maydounova', written over the printed name.

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

TECH/287011.1